

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-04 /064 W

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R 260805Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1643

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 12850

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH MOFA'S ACTING AMERICAN

AFFAIRS DIRECTOR

REFS: (A) ADDIS 12340; (B) ADDIS A-212

1. IN HALF-HOUR, CORDIAL TOUR D'HORIZON WITH VISITING LONDON
EMBOFF AND POL COUNSELOR OCTOBER 25, ACTING AMERICAN AFFAIRS
DIRECTOR ALEMAYEHU ABEBE OFFERED FOLLOWING NOTEWORTHY OBSER-
VATION:

(A) MOFA'S PORTION OF ETHIOPIA'S FOREIGN POLICY REVIEW
PROCEEDING "WELL." EMBASSY'S SUMMARY OF US PROGRAMS IN
ETHIOPIA (REFS) HAD BEEN MOST HELPFUL. AFCC REPS ALSO
APPEAR BE GAINING BETTER APPRECIATION OF LIMITS ETHIOPIA'S
FOREIGN POLICY ALTERNATIVES, "IF BENEFITS ALREADY BEING
DERIVED FROM NATION'S FOREIGN RELATIONSHIPS TO BE PROTECTED."
WHILE THERE NO GUARANTEE THAT AFCC WOULD FOLLOW
RECOMMENDATIONS PREPARED IN MOFA, SOURCE FELT THAT
MAJOR CHANGES IN THRUST ETHIOPIA'S FOREIGN POLICY
UNLIKELY RESULT FROM CURRENT REVIEW.

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(B) GOODWILL MISSIONS BEGINNING TO REPORT BACK FAVORABLY

ON WHOLE, EXCEPT FOR "SOME STICKINESS" IN CJOBI, WHICH TO BE EXPECTED GIVEN CLOSE KENYATTA RELATIONSHIP WITH EX-EMPEROR. OTHERS WILL BE SENT OUT AS THE FIRST ONES RETURN. ONE IS GOING TO JIDDA, ANOTHER IS DUE TO GO "ACROSS THE MEDITERRANEAN." MISSIONS NOT PROGRAMMED TO SPELL OUT THE NEW ETHIOPIA'S FOREIGN POLICY IN ANY DETAIL. ITS MEMBERS NOT SUFFICIENTLY EXPERIENCED TO DO THAT AND, IN ANY EVENT, REVIEW PROCESSES STILL IN COURSE. WHAT MISSIONS ARE SAYING, IN ESSENCE, IS THAT THE NEW ETHIOPIA WISHES TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH THOSE WHO WISH TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH IT. WHERE PREVIOUS RELATIONSHIPS WITH FORMER ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENTS ENCOMPASSED DIFFICULTIES, EPMG GOODWILL REPS WILL INDICATE THAT ETHIOPIA'S NEW AUTHORITIES PREPARED TO LET BYGONES BE BYGONES. MISSIONS MIGHT BE SENT, AT LATER TIME, TO TEHRAN AND RABAT. THOUGHT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO MISSION TO LATTER CAPITAL NOW BUT, AS ETHIOPIA IS NOT MEMBER ARAB LEAGUE, IT HAD BEEN DECIDED THAT DEPARTURE ETHIOPIAN GOODWILL DELEGATION FOR RABAT SHOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL AFTER ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE.

(C) DROUGHT RELIEF. ALEMAYEHU EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR WASHINGTON AUTHORITIES' READINESS GIVE SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION TO AMBASSADOR KIFLE'S RECENT REPRESENTATIONS FOR DROUGHT RELIEF. EMBOFFS SAID US APPRECIATES ETHIOPIA'S CONTINUING PROBLEMS BUT HOPED R&R COMMISSION WOULD BE ABLE SUPPLY FACTUAL BACKUP WITH WHICH TO SUPPORT REQUEST TO INTERNATIONAL DONORS.

(D) PROGRESS THROUGH COOPERATION CAMPAIGN. ALEMAYEHU, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, THEN SAID EMBASSY MIGHT EXPECT FORMAL APPROACH IN RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE. EPMG GEARING UP TO CONDUCT SUBJECT CAMPAIGN. IT HAD BUDGETED AN INITIAL TRANCHE OF \$50 MILLION FOR IT AND WOULD "BEGIN WITH THE MONEY WE HAVE." HOWEVER, ADDITIONAL RESOURCES WOULD BE REQUIRED, FOR EXAMPLE, TENTS AND COTS, ETC., TO FACILITATE LIFE OF STUDENT CAMPAIGNERS IN REMOTE CORNERS OF THE COUNTRYSIDE. POL COUNSELOR SAID EMBASSY WOULD BE PREPARED CONSIDER AND TRANSMIT REQUEST WHEN MOFA READY TO MAKE IT. EMBOFF ASKED WHEN CAMPAIGN LIKELY GET OFF THE GROUND AND ALEMAYEHU REPLIED "WITHIN A MONTH."

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